

the nation. Along with her late husband John de Menil, who died in 1973, Dominique de Menil left indelible marks on the world of art and the cause of civil rights.

Dominique de Menil was born in Paris on March 23, 1908. Heiress to the Schlumberger Ltd. oil field service company fortune, she made Houston her home for more than 50 years and became its leading arts patron and benefactor. Mrs. de Menil received her bachelor of arts degree from the Sorbonne in 1927. At twenty-three she married Jean de Menil, a young baron from a French military family. In the early 1940s, they came to America with the expansion of Schlumberger and settled in Houston. They became American citizens in 1962.

In 1954, declaring that "art embodies the highest aspirations of humankind," the de Menils established the Menil Foundation to foster knowledge and understanding in the fields of art, architecture and philosophy. Its primary focus has been the visual arts. In addition, Mr. and Mrs. de Menil were among the founders of Houston's Contemporary Arts Museum and responsible for nurturing it during its infancy.

Mrs. de Menil and her late husband were internationally known for establishing Houston's Rothko Chapel in 1971. Mrs. de Menil called the Rothko Chapel, which houses an ensemble of large paintings by the abstract artist Mark Rothko that were commissioned for the chapel, a place "dedicated to meditation and peace." The chapel is ecumenical, open to all religions, belonging to none. Outside the chapel is a reflection pool with Broken Obelisk, a Barnett Newman sculpture dedicated to the Rev. Martin Luther King, Jr., whose civil-rights work was close to the heart of Mrs. de Menil. She hosted many distinguished visitors for special programs, including Bishop Desmond Tutu of South Africa, Tibet's Dalai Lama, and South African President Nelson Mandela.

A sense of the suffering and indignities heaped on humankind was of great concern to Mrs. de Menil. She founded the Rothko Chapel Awards, \$10,000 prizes presented annually to five recipients, often little-known individuals, who battled for human rights. She also joined with former President Carter to establish the Carter-Menil Human Rights Prize of \$100,000, awarded every other year in Houston or Atlanta. Mrs. de Menil also worked closely with the late Congressman Mickey Leland to further civil and human rights around the world.

After John de Menil died, Dominique de Menil continued the couple's projects, and she masterminded a large, many-pronged program in the art and human rights. In 1987, the Menil Collection museum in Houston opened to the public. Designed by architect Renzo Piano, it houses one of the greatest privately assembled collections in the world, numbering more than 15,000 works of art. Museums in New York and Paris wooed Mrs. de Menil in hopes of acquiring the collection. But Mrs. de Menil was determined to keep the collection in her adopted home of Houston.

In 1995, she presided over the opening of another building, also designed by Renzo Piano. The Cy Twombly Gallery houses a collection of sculptures and paintings by the prominent American artist. In 1997, she presided over opening the Byzantine Fresco Chapel, designed by her son Francois de Menil, containing two 13th-century Byzantine frescos from Cyprus.

Mrs. de Menil also played a pivotal role at the Museum of Fine Arts in Houston. She gave generously to foster the arts at Rice University and the University of St. Thomas. She and her husband brought a young architect named Philip Johnson to Houston to design the modern campus at the University of St. Thomas. Mr. Johnson, of course, went on to establish himself as one of the nation's premier modern architects. In 1969, she and her husband established the Institute for the Arts at Rice. She had a great appreciation for the place of art in a strong community and worked to ensure that Houstonians from all walks of life could enjoy our city's many artistic and cultural treasures.

Whatever she did, Mrs. de Menil's intelligence, enthusiasm, and integrity served her and all those she encountered well. She brought a tireless energy, an unflagging drive and a passionate caring to each of her causes. Mrs. de Menil will be remembered for these qualities and her dedication to making the world a better place.

Mr. Speaker, Dominique de Menil was one of a kind. She was a person of strong opinions who cared greatly for justice and the welfare of others. She will be greatly missed but never forgotten by Houstonians, the many people throughout the world with whom she worked, and countless others who care about art and human rights. We are all infinitely richer for her legacy and were blessed with her wisdom, compassion, and dignity. As she intended, the artistic and humanitarian causes she championed will remain as her legacy.

CHILD CARE

HON. LEE H. HAMILTON

OF INDIANA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, January 28, 1998

Mr. HAMILTON. Mr. Speaker, I would like to insert my Washington Report for Wednesday, December 3, 1997, into the Congressional Record.

CHILD CARE CHALLENGES

Finding high-quality, affordable child care is a common challenge for working parents, with profound consequences for the emotional and cognitive development of children, the workplace, and welfare reform. To choose where your children will be for long hours is to choose the people and the environment that will help shape them.

I find Hoosiers ambivalent about child care. Many accept that working mothers are a reality and want greater investments in improving the quality of child care. Others believe mothers should stay at home with their small children, or at least not be encouraged by government subsidies to leave their children in the care of others.

Child care has become an increasingly urgent issue for a number of reasons. First, 62% of women with young children work outside the home. Today, an estimated 13 million children under the age of 6 spend some or all of their day in child care. The effort to push welfare recipients into the workforce also adds to the demand for child care, since most of them are single women with young children. Second, recent research has indicated that the stimulation and attention children receive from infancy until the age of 3 has a critical impact on their ability to learn and grow throughout the rest of their lives. Third, child care is expensive: on aver-

age, \$3,800 per year for each pre-school age child. Employers, meanwhile, lose an estimated \$3 billion each year due to child-care related absences by workers. For low-income working parents, child care is a perpetual emergency.

FEDERAL ASSISTANCE

The federal government has a few programs aimed at making child care better and more affordable: child care subsidies for low-income families and those receiving welfare benefits; a modest income tax credit for a portion of child care expenses; a tax exclusion for employer-provided child care benefits; low-cost, nutritious meals and snacks for poor children in child care; and Head Start, a part-day pre-school program for disadvantaged youngsters. These programs will cost the federal government about \$12 billion in 1997.

KEY ISSUES

Recently, President and Mrs. Clinton hosted a conference at the White House which focused on the three key child care issues:

Availability

The availability of care varies widely. Care is sometimes scarce for babies because of the lower child-to-adult ratio they require. Options are also limited for school age children; in Indiana, only 37% of public schools offer extended day programs.

Affordability

The expense of child care can place great strains on the family budget. The 1996 welfare reform law increased federal child care funding by \$4 billion over six years, yet only one in ten eligible families receives subsidies. Many communities have hundreds of parents on waiting lists for assistance. Low-income working parents are competing with welfare recipients moving into the workforce for limited child care funds. Some large employers have stepped up efforts to help employees meet their child care needs by building on-site child care centers, providing referrals, or giving employees pre-tax cash assistance, but only 4% of American workers are eligible.

Quality

Although there are many excellent child care facilities, too much of the child care in this country is unsafe at worst, mediocre at best. States are primarily responsible for regulating the health and safety of child care settings, and requirements vary widely. A 1995 study indicated that one in eight child care centers provided care that could actually jeopardize children's safety and development.

But it's not enough just to keep children safe. Because of the importance of early childhood experiences on later learning, child care needs to provide age-appropriate activities, a low child-to-adult ratio, and lots of attention from stable, nurturing adults who understand child development. Yet this is lacking in up to 6 out of every 7 child care centers by one estimate. One problem is that turnover among child care workers is about 50% annually, primarily due to low wages. The average salary for a worker in a child care center is just over \$12,000 per year—considerably less than the average bartender earns. With such low wages it is difficult to attract highly skilled and experienced individuals. Moreover, most states, including Indiana, do not require child care workers to have any training prior to beginning their jobs. But increasing wages for child care workers will drive up costs, making child care even less affordable.

SOLUTIONS

The question for government is what it can do to make the child care situation better. It

is easy to see how more money might help, but in this era of budget constraints, no large infusion of cash is going to come from Washington. In some respects, that's appropriate. Different communities have different needs, and my sense is that locally created solutions forged by partnerships among businesses, schools, churches, and government are probably going to be most successful. Nonetheless, we do have a responsibility as a nation to see that children are given the opportunity to prosper. Finding a way to pay child care workers a living wage and assure that they are professionally trained and supervised is crucial. Some suggest that greater government regulation of child care providers would improve care, but others worry that this would drive up costs and worsen the affordability problem.

President Clinton has proposed spending \$300 million to train 50,000 day care providers who promise to stay in the field at least one year. He also pledged to devote more AmeriCorps volunteers to after-school programs. Others have proposed raising the Department Care Tax Credit, which has not been increased since 1981, and making the credit refundable for low-income families. Still others believe that more child care is a bad approach and favor providing incentives for parents to stay at home with children or utilize flexible work arrangements.

We need to place a higher priority on meeting the educational and emotional needs of young children. There are many difficult questions surrounding the availability, affordability, and quality of child care in this country, and plenty of room for argument on how best to achieve satisfactory arrangements. But all of us have a stake in giving every child a decent start. My strong sense is that not nearly enough child care is of the quality that all children deserve. I have the feeling that finding a way to improve child care is one of the next big challenges ahead.

TRIBUTE TO ROBERT FRANCIS RITTER, JR.

HON. BRAD SHERMAN

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, January 28, 1998

Mr. SHERMAN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to Robert Francis Ritter, Jr. who has served as the President of the Reseda Chamber of Commerce for the last two years.

One only has to look at the choices Rob has made throughout his life and his career to realize his commitment to family. He has worked in his family printing business for 16 years, alongside his mother, father, sisters and brothers-in-law. Working together as a team, the Ritter family has not only developed a successful business, they have maintained strong bonds out of the office as well. The Ritter family also adeptly demonstrated their strength and unity at the softball city semifinals last season.

As President of the Reseda Chamber of Commerce, one of Rob's priorities has been to create an environment in which the standard for families has been raised. He developed and maintained the Facade Improvement Program and the Business Improvement District, which were started by Councilmember Laura Chick. In addition, Reseda received \$310,000 from the Los Angeles Neighborhood Initiative. Rob worked to ensure that all of these programs have a positive and lasting effect on our community.

William James once said, "The greatest use of life is to spend it for something that outlasts it." Though Rob Ritter's term as president is over, the work he has done for Reseda will be appreciated for many years to come. Mr. Speaker, distinguished colleagues, please join me in honoring Robert Ritter, for his commitment to our community.

THE HAWAII FEDERAL MEDICAL ASSISTANCE PERCENTAGE ADJUSTMENT ACT OF 1998

HON. NEIL ABERCROMBIE

OF HAWAII

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, January 28, 1998

Mr. ABERCROMBIE. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to introduce legislation to adjust the Federal medical assistance percentage [FMAP] rate for Hawaii to more fairly reflect the state's ability to bear its share of Medicaid payments. I am pleased that my colleague, Representative PATSY MINK, has joined me as a sponsor of this measure. I am also happy to join our Senate counterparts, Senator DANIEL AKAKA and Senator DANIEL INOUE, in putting forth this legislation. In November 1997, a similar bill, S. 1376 was introduced by Senator AKAKA.

The Federal share of Medicaid payments for each state varies according to the state's ability to pay. Because per capita income is the determining factor for ability to pay, wealthier state bear a larger share of the cost of the program through lower FMAP rates. In Hawaii, per capita income is relatively high. Thus, the State's FMAP rate is 50 percent, the lowest level. Under this bill, Hawaii's FMAP rate would be increased from 50 percent to 59.8 percent.

The rationale for the FMAP rate change is quite simple. Hawaii's high cost of living skews the per capita income determining factor. Based on 1995 United States Census data, the cost of living in Honolulu is 83 percent higher than the average of the metropolitan areas. More recent studies have shown that for the state as a whole, the cost of living is more than one-third higher than the rest of the United States. In fact, Hawaii's Cost of Living Index ranks it as the highest in the country. Some government programs take the high cost of living in Hawaii into account and funding is adjusted accordingly. These programs include Medicare prospective payment rates, food stamp allocations, school lunch programs, housing insurance limits, Federal employee salaries, and military living expenses. These examples show a Federal recognition that the higher cost of living in noncontiguous states should be taken into account in fashioning government program policies. It is time for similar recognition of this factor in gaging Hawaii's ability to support its health care programs.

An excellent analysis of this issue is included in the twenty-first edition of "The Federal Budget and the States," a joint study conducted by the Taubman Center and Local Government at Harvard University's John F. Kennedy School of Government and the office of Senator DANIEL PATRICK MOYNIHAN. According to the study, if per capita income is measured in real terms, the State of Hawaii ranks 47th at \$19,755 compared to the national av-

erage of \$24,231. Thus, Hawaii's 50 percent FMAP rate is understated because cost of living factors are not considered. Per capita income is a poor measure of Hawaii's relative ability to bear the cost of Medicaid services.

In addition to the high cost of living, the Harvard-Moynihan study finds that Hawaii also has one of the highest poverty rates in the nation. The state's 16.9 percent poverty rate is ranked eighth in the country, compared to the national average of 14.7 percent. These higher cost levels are reflected in state government expenditures and state taxation. On a per capita basis, state revenue and expenditures are far higher in Hawaii, as well as Alaska, than in the 48 mainland states. The higher expenditure levels are necessary to assure an adequate level of public services which are more costly to provide in our states. Of the top 10 states with the highest poverty rates in the country, the Harvard-Moynihan study finds that only 3 others have an FMAP rate between 50 and 60 percent. The other six states have FMAP rates of 65 percent and higher. Even more revealing is that of the top 10 states with the lowest real per capita income, only Hawaii has a 50 percent FMAP rate.

During consideration of the Balanced Budget Act of 1997, the Senate included a provision increasing Alaska's FMAP rate to 59.8 percent for the next 3 years. Setting a higher match rate as was done for Alaska would still leave Hawaii with a lower FMAP rate than a majority of the states, but would better recognize Hawaii's ability to pay its fair share of the costs of the Medicaid program.

I hope to make my colleagues in the House of Representative colleagues cognizant of the need for this legislation and to earn their support for its passage in the 105th Congress.

REGARDING THE ELECTIONS HELD IN GUYANA

HON. SANFORD D. BISHOP, JR.

OF GEORGIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, January 28, 1998

Mr. BISHOP. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to commend the people of the Republic of Guyana for holding multiparty elections on December 15, 1997. By most accounts, based on the observations of international organizations on the day of the elections, the process was free and fair.

I congratulate the Guyanese people for their strong belief in the democratic process as shown by an 88 percent voter turnout.

I regret that factions in the country called for civil disobedience and that there was mass looting and rioting for many days following the elections.

I encourage an audit of the elections by the Caribbean Community, (CARICOM) and call on all parties and opposition leaders to respect the outcome of the audit as the final decision and make a vow to peace and stability in Guyana.

I call on the newly elected President Janet Jagan, a native of Chicago, to respect the rule of law and human rights in this fledgling democracy.